



Each year, Fire Prevention Week coincides with the Great Chicago Fire. The fire started around 9 o'clock on Sunday evening, October 8, 1871, somewhere in or very near the O'Leary barn. For 135 years, Mrs. O'Leary's cow has been blamed for starting the fire by kicking over a lantern. Whatever the cause, the lack of adequate fire fighting equipment and modern Fire Codes led to the death of 300 people and the destruction of \$200 million of property and left 90,000 homeless.



Chicago Tribune Headline
October 11, 1871

Watch What You Heat

Have you ever left the kitchen while something heated on the stove? Just outside Kirkland a man was “wokking a chicken”. He told fire investigators that he had only been out of the room for two minutes. By the time the fire was out (there is a fire station across the street) four units in his apartment complex had been severely damaged. Five families were homeless, and six families suffered extensive damage to their personal property.

- Watch what you are heating
- Have a pan lid, big enough to cover the pan you are using beside the stove, ready to put on the pan (using an oven mitt) if a fire should start
- Turn handles back onto the stove so children don't pull the pan off the stove onto themselves